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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/820,551	04/08/2004	John K. Apostolides	00478CIPCIPCIP	8386
26285	7590	07/22/2008		
K&I. GATES LLP 535 SMITHFIELD STREET PITTSBURGH, PA 15222				
EXAMINER				
RIVELL, JOHN A				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3753				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
07/22/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/820,551

Applicant(s)

APOSTOLIDES, JOHN K.

Examiner

JOHN RIVELL

Art Unit

3753

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3/17/08 (amendment).
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18, 37-41, 44, 55-69 and 81 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18, 37-41, 44, 55-69 and 81 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 03172008
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Applicant's arguments filed March 17, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Claims 19-36, 42, 43, 45-54 and 70-80 have been canceled. Claims 1-18, 37-41, 44, 55-69 and 81 remain pending.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 10, 12, 37, 40, 44, 55, 58, 60-63 and 65-67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Knobloch et al. (U. S. Pat. No. 3,043,499).

The patent to Knobloch et al. discloses, in figures 2 for example, recirculating system in which fluid from two parallel connected valve chest chambers 5, 5a flows from the chest chambers 5, 5a to a supply line 9, cylinder 3 return line 8 and back in parallel to valve chests 5, 5a. Note in particular fill passage 12.

The recirculation circuit includes a "valve assembly comprising: a first check valve (outlet check valve 7) structured to permit fluid flow therethrough in response to application of positive pressure at an inlet of said first check valve (7), further comprising an outlet of said first check valve (7) being in fluid communication with at least a portion (at supply conduit 9) of a fluid system; wherein the application of positive pressure from an inlet/outlet port (4) at a common refill/evacuation location (chamber 5) causes fluid to flow from the common refill/evacuation location through said first check valve (7) into said fluid system: a second check valve (inlet check valve 6) having an

outlet in fluid communication with said inlet of said first check valve (7), said second check valve (6) being structured to permit fluid flow therethrough in response to application of negative pressure at said outlet of said second check valve (6), further comprising an inlet of said second check valve (6) being in fluid communication with a portion (at return conduit 8) of said fluid system, wherein the application of negative pressure from the inlet/outlet port (4) at the common refill/evacuation location (5) causes fluid to flow from said fluid system (from conduit 8) through said second check valve (6) into the common refill/evacuation location (5); and, the inlet/outlet port (where conduit 4 enters chamber 5) in direct fluid communication with said inlet of said first check valve (7) and in direct fluid communication with said outlet of said second check valve (6) at the common refill/evacuation location (100)" as recited in claim 1.

Regarding claim 4, in Knobloch et al., "said second check valve (6 is) in fluid communication with at least one fluid reservoir" read at cylinder 3, as recited.

Regarding claim 6, in Raines, "at least one fluid component (at valve chest chamber 5 or pump piston 2) in fluid communication with said inlet/outlet port (4)" as recited.

Regarding claim 7, the patent to Knobloch et al. discloses a "valve system comprising: a first valve assembly (at valve chest 5) comprising, a first check valve (7) structured to permit fluid flow therethrough in response to application of positive pressure at an inlet of said first check valve (7), further comprising an outlet of said first check valve (7) being in fluid communication with a first portion (the conduit leading from check valve 7 to the conduit 9) of a first fluid system (chest 5 to conduit 9 to

cylinder 3 to return conduit 8 back to chest 5), wherein the application of positive pressure from a first inlet/outlet port (4) at a first common refill/evacuation location (valve chest 5) causes fluid to flow from the first common refill/evacuation location (5) through said first check valve (7) into the first portion of said first fluid system; a second check valve (6) having an outlet in fluid communication with said inlet of said first check valve (7), said second check valve (6) being structured to permit fluid flow therethrough in response to application of negative pressure at said outlet of said second check valve (6), further comprising an inlet of said second check valve (6) being in fluid communication with at least the first portion (conduit 9, via conduit 8 and cylinder 3) of said first fluid system, wherein the application of negative pressure from the first inlet/outlet port (4) at the first common refill/evacuation location (5) causes fluid to flow from the first portion (conduit 9) of said first fluid system through said second check valve (6) into the first common refill/evacuation location (5); the first inlet/outlet port (4) in direct fluid communication with said inlet of said first check valve (7) and in direct fluid communication with said outlet of said second check valve (6) at the first common refill/evacuation location (5); a second valve assembly (at valve chest 5a) comprising, a third check valve (7a) structured to permit fluid flow therethrough in response to application of positive pressure at an inlet of said third check valve (7a), further comprising an outlet of said third check valve being in fluid communication with a second portion (the conduit leading from check valve 7a to conduit 9) of a second fluid system (valve chest 5a to conduit 9 to cylinder 3 to return conduit 8 back to valve chest 5a), wherein the application of positive pressure causes [fluid to flow from a] second

inlet/outlet port (4a) at a second common refill/evacuation location (chamber 5a)... through said third check valve (7a) into the second portion (leading to conduit 9) of said second fluid system; a fourth check valve (6a) having an outlet in fluid communication with said inlet of said third check valve (7a), said fourth check valve (6a) being structured to permit fluid flow therethrough in response to application of negative pressure at said outlet of said fourth check valve (6a), further comprising an inlet of said fourth check valve (6a) being in fluid communication with at least the second portion (the conduit leading to conduit 9 from check valve 7a via return conduit 8 and cylinder 3) of said second fluid system (5a, 9, 3, 8, 5a), wherein the application of negative pressure from a second inlet/outlet port (4a) at the second common refill/evacuation location (5a) causes fluid to flow from the second portion of said second fluid system through said fourth check valve (6a) into the second common refill/evacuation location (5a); and, the second inlet/outlet port (4a) in direct fluid communication with said inlet of said third check valve (7a) and in direct fluid communication with said outlet of said fourth check valve (6a) at the second common refill/evacuation location (5a)" as recited.

Regarding claim 10, in Knobloch et al., "at least one of said second check valve (6) and said fourth check valve (6a) being in fluid communication with at least one fluid reservoir" read at cylinder 3, as recited.

Regarding claim 12, in Knobloch et al., "at least one fluid component (such as valve chests 5, 5a or pump piston 4 is) in fluid communication with at least one of said inlet/outlet ports" 4, 4a, as recited.

Regarding claim 37, the patent to Knobloch et al. discloses a "module comprising: a first valve assembly (at valve chest 5) comprising, a first check valve (7) structured to permit fluid flow therethrough in response to application of positive pressure at an inlet of said first check valve (7), further comprising an outlet of said first check valve (7) being in fluid communication with a first portion (the conduit leading from check valve 7 to conduit 9) of a first fluid system (chest 5 to conduit 9 to cylinder 3 to return conduit 8 back to valve chest 5), wherein the application of positive pressure from a first inlet/outlet port at (4) a first common refill/evacuation location (chamber 5) causes fluid to flow from a the first common refill/evacuation location (5) through said first check valve (7) into said first fluid system; a second check valve (6) having an outlet in fluid communication with said inlet of said first check valve (7), said second check valve (6) being structured to permit fluid flow therethrough in response to application of negative pressure at said outlet of said second check valve (6), further comprising an inlet of said second check valve (6) being in fluid communication (via conduit 8 and cylinder 3) with at least the first portion (the conduit leading from check valve 7 to conduit 9) of said first fluid system, wherein the application of negative pressure from the first inlet/outlet port (4) at the first common refill/evacuation location (5) causes fluid to flow from the first portion of said first fluid system through said second check valve (6) into the first common refill/evacuation location (5); the first inlet/outlet port (4) in direct fluid communication with said inlet of said first check valve (7) and in direct fluid communication with said outlet of said second check valve (6) at the first common refill/evacuation location (5); at least a second valve assembly (5a)

comprising, a third check valve (7a) structured to permit fluid flow therethrough in response to application of positive pressure at an inlet of said third check valve (7a), further comprising an outlet of said third check valve (7a) being in fluid communication with a second portion (the conduit leading from check valve 7a to conduit 9) of a second fluid system (valve chest 5a, to conduit 9 to cylinder 3 to return conduit 8 back to valve chest 5a), wherein the application of positive pressure from a second inlet/outlet port (4a) at a second common refill/evacuation location (5a) causes fluid to flow from the second common refill/evacuation location (5a) through said third check valve (7a) into said second fluid system; a fourth check valve (6a) having an outlet in fluid communication with said inlet of said third check valve (7a), said fourth check valve (6a) being structured to permit fluid flow therethrough in response to application of negative pressure at said outlet of said fourth check valve (6a), further comprising an inlet of said fourth check valve (6a) being in fluid communication (via return conduit 8, cylinder 3) with at least the second portion (the conduit leading from check valve 7a to conduit 9) of said second fluid system, wherein the application of negative pressure from a second inlet/outlet port (4a) at the second common refill/evacuation location (5a) causes fluid to flow from the second portion of said second fluid system through said fourth check valve (6a) into the second common refill/evacuation location (5a); the second inlet/outlet port (4a) in direct fluid communication with said inlet of said third check valve (7a) and in direct fluid communication with said outlet of said fourth check valve (6a) at the second common refill/evacuation location (5a); and, said first and second valve assemblies (5,

5a) being coupled together (as by their associated plumbing) to form said module" as recited.

Regarding claim 40, in Knobloch et al., "at least one of said second check valve (6) and said fourth check valve (6a) being in fluid communication with at least one fluid reservoir" read at cylinder 3, as recited.

Regarding claim 44, in Knobloch et al., "at least one fluid component (such as valve chests 5, 5a or pump piston 4 is) in fluid communication with at least one of said inlet/outlet ports" 4, 4a as recited.

Regarding claim 55, in making and/or using the device of Knobloch et al. one necessarily performs a method of "of performing at least one fluid operation in a fluid system, said method comprising: structuring a first check valve (7) to permit fluid flow therethrough in response to application of positive pressure at an inlet of said first check valve (7), further structuring said first check valve (7) with an outlet in fluid communication with a first portion (the conduit leading from check valve 7 to conduit 9) of a fluid system (valve chest 5 to conduit 9 to cylinder 3 to return conduit back to valve chest 5), wherein the application of positive pressure from an inlet/outlet port (4) at a common refill/evacuation location 85) causes fluid to flow from the common refill/evacuation location (5) through said first check valve (7) into said fluid system; structuring a second check valve (6) having an outlet in fluid communication with said inlet of said first check valve (7), further structuring said second check valve (6) to permit fluid flow therethrough in response to application of negative pressure at said outlet of said second check valve (6), further structuring said second check valve (6)

such that said second check valve (6) comprises an inlet of said second check valve (6) being in fluid communication (via conduit 8, cylinder 3) with at least the first portion (the conduit leading from check valve 7 to conduit 9) of said fluid system, wherein the application of negative pressure from the inlet/outlet port (4) at the common refill/evacuation location (5) causes fluid to flow from said fluid system through said second check valve (6) into the common refill/evacuation location (5); and, positioning the inlet/outlet port (4) in direct fluid communication with said inlet of said first check valve (7) and in direct fluid communication with said outlet of said second check valve (6) at the common refill/evacuation location (5)" as recited.

Regarding claim 58, in making and/or using the device of Knobloch et al. one necessarily performs a further method step "comprising positioning said second check valve (6) in fluid communication with at least one fluid reservoir" read at cylinder 3, as recited.

Regarding claim 60, in making and/or using the device of Knobloch et al. one necessarily performs a further method step "comprising operatively associating at least one fluid component (such as valve chests 5, 5a or pump piston 4) in fluid communication with said inlet/outlet port (4)" as recited.

Regarding claim 61, in making and/or using the device of Knobloch et al. one necessarily performs a further method step "comprising applying positive pressure at said common refill/evacuation location" 5 through conduit 4 as recited.

Regarding claim 62, in making and/or using the device of Knobloch et al. one necessarily performs a further method step "comprising applying negative pressure at

said common refill/evacuation location (5) after said applying positive pressure at said common refill/evacuation location (5)" as recited.

Regarding claim 63, in making and/or using the device of Knobloch et al. one necessarily performs a further method step "comprising performing at least one fluid refill operation by said applying positive pressure at said common refill/evacuation location (5)" as recited.

Regarding claim 65, in making and/or using the device of Knobloch et al. one necessarily performs a further method step "comprising applying negative pressure at said common refill/evacuation location (5)" as recited.

Regarding claim 66, in making and/or using the device of Knobloch et al. one necessarily performs a further method step "comprising applying positive pressure at said common refill/evacuation location (5) after said applying negative pressure at said common refill/evacuation location (5)" as recited.

Regarding claim 67, in making and/or using the device of Knobloch et al. one necessarily performs a further method step "comprising performing at least one fluid evacuation operation by said applying negative pressure at said common refill/evacuation location (5)" as recited.

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 6 are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Raines (U. S. Pat. No. 4,246,932).

The patent to Raines discloses, in figures 2 and 4 for example, a "valve assembly comprising: a first check valve (outlet disk 152) structured to permit fluid flow therethrough in response to application of positive pressure at an inlet of said first check

valve (152), further comprising an outlet (124) of said first check (152) valve being in fluid communication with at least a portion (the use "portion" represented by conduit C') of a fluid system (the "system" is read as both the supply source and the fluid feeding inlet conduit C, the entirety of the valve and body as well as the outlet conduit C' and whatever is fed by outlet conduit C'; there is no language in the claim requiring the outlet of check valve 152 to be in fluid communication with the inlet of check valve 150, thus the claim embodies the embodiment disclosed in applicants figures 32-35 and 38-40 in which the "portion of the fluid system" is not connected fluidly to the "fluid reservoir"); wherein the application of positive pressure (from the syringe S) from a common inlet/outlet port (where the end of the syringe meets chamber 100) at a common refill/evacuation location (chamber 100) causes fluid to flow from the common refill/evacuation location (at 100) through said first check valve (152) into said fluid system: a second check valve (inlet disk 150) having an outlet in fluid communication with said inlet of said first check valve (152), said second check (150) valve being structured to permit fluid flow therethrough in response to application of negative pressure at said outlet of said second check valve (150), further comprising an inlet of said second check valve (150) being in fluid communication with a portion (the supply portion at conduit C) of said fluid system, wherein the application of negative pressure from the inlet/outlet port (where the end of the syringe meets chamber 100) at the common refill/evacuation location 100 causes fluid to flow from said fluid system (supply portion at conduit C) through said second check valve (150) into the common refill/evacuation location (100); and, the inlet/outlet port (bore 60 which receives syringe

S) in direct fluid communication with said inlet of said first check valve (152) and in direct fluid communication with said outlet of said second check valve (150) at the common refill/evacuation location (100)" as recited.

Regarding claim 4, in Raines, said second check valve (at inlet disk 150 is) in fluid communication with at least one (inherent) fluid reservoir" supplying fluid thereto as recited.

Regarding claim 5, in Raines, "at least one quick disconnect connection (at the press in fit between the syringe S and the bore 60 is) operatively associated with said inlet/outlet port" as recited.

Regarding claim 6, in Raines, "at least one fluid component (at syringe S is) in fluid communication with said inlet/outlet port (60, 100)" as recited.

Response to Arguments

Regarding applicants remarks as they may apply to the above, the "fluid system" of Knobloch et al. includes a "common refill/evacuation location" at either one of valve chests 5, 5a. Each valve chest is plumbed in a recirculating fluid circuit leading from the respective valve chest 5, 5a to conduit 9 to cylinder 3 to return conduit 8 back to the respective valve chest 5, 5a. As such, the outlets of the check valves 7, 7a are fluidly communicated with the inlets of the check valves 6, 6a, respectively. Further each respective inlet/outlet port at 4, 4a is in "direct" communication with the inlet of the first check valve 7, 7a and the outlet of the second check valve 6, 6a, respectively.

Regarding applicants remarks concerning Raines, the arguments appear to rely on the claim reading only on the embodiment in which the fluid recirculates in the system as illustrated in figure 36. Such reliance appears not well taken.

There is no language in claim 1 which requires fluid to essentially recirculate through the check valves such that the outlet of the one check valve whose inlet is connected to the common refill/evacuation location is connected to the inlet of the check valve whose outlet is connected to the common refill/evacuation location. That is, the claim recites "a portion of" the fluid system in reference to the connections of the first and second check valve. See claim 1, lines 4 and 12.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 13, 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knobloch et al. (U. S. Pat. No. 3,043,499).

Knobloch et al. discloses the claimed invention except for additional "valve assemblies" including a "third" valve assembly, the additional assembly including a respective inlet and outlet check valves connected to a common "refill/evacuation location".

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to duplicate the valve assembly of Knobloch et al. such that one employs multiple separate individual valve assemblies to transfer fluid from respective individual inlets to respective individual outlets, since it has been held that mere

duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art unless a new and unexpected result is produced. *In re Harza*, 274 F.2d 669, 124 USPQ 378 (CCPA 1960).

In comparing the claim language at issue with the single valve assembly of Knobloch et al., it is clear that the claim language merely reflects multiple individual separate assemblies, each one of which is no different than the other or from that assembly demonstrated to be known by Knobloch et al.

Claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 38, 39, 56, 57, 64, 68, 69 and 81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knobloch et al. in view of Gargas (U. S. Pat. No. 4,684,334).

The patent to Knobloch et al. discloses all the claimed features with the exception of having "said fluid system portion includes at least a pre-filter portion... being in fluid communication with at least one fluid filter".

The patent to Gargas discloses that it is known in the art to employ a filter element at 11 downstream of a pump assembly, essentially forming a "pre-filter portion" of the downstream fluid circuit for the purpose of filtering out contamination prior to fluid utilization by the downstream system thus preventing blockage of the system by such filtered contamination.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to employ in Knobloch et al. in conduit 4 and/or 4a filter element thus forming a "pre-filter portion" for the purpose of filtering out contamination prior to fluid utilization by the downstream system thus preventing blockage of the system by such filtered contamination as recognized by Gargas.

Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knobloch et al., as applied to claims 13, 16 and 18 (regarding duplication of parts),

further in view of Gargas (U. S. Pat. No. 4,684,334) as applied to claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 38, 39, 56, 57, 64, 68, 69 and 81 above.

Claims 5, 11, 41 and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knobloch et al. in view of Raines.

The patent to Knobloch et al. discloses all the claimed features with the exception of having a "quick disconnect operatively associated with at least one of said inlet/outlet ports".

The patent to Raines discloses that it is known in the art to employ a "quick disconnect" at the friction fit of the syringe and its inlet/outlet port at the end of the syringe with the "common refill/evacuation location" chamber 100 for the purpose of permitting simple, easy, and repeatable connection of the inlet/outlet port to the refill/evacuation location.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to employ in Knobloch et al. a "quick disconnect" connecting the end of conduit 4, 4a with the valve chest 5, 5a, respectively, for the purpose of permitting simple, easy, and repeatable connection of the inlet/outlet port 4, 4a to the refill/evacuation location 5, 5a, respectively, as recognized by Raines.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knobloch et al., as applied to claims 13, 16 and 18 (regarding duplication of parts) above, further in view of Raines as applied to claims 5, 11, 41 and 59 above.

Applicants remaining arguments rely in the alleged allowability of the independent claims from which the dependent claim rely. As explicitly analyzed above, those independent claims find equivalent teachings in the prior art and the respective rejections under obviousness are not separately argued .

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOHN RIVELL whose telephone number is (571)272-4918. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. from 6:00am-2:30pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Greg Huson can be reached on (571) 272-4887. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3753

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

**/John Rivell/
John Rivell
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3753**

j.r.